



**GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY
ADMINISTRATION/BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

400 BOARDMAN AVENUE
TRAVERSE CITY, MI 49684-2577

ADMINISTRATION
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FAX

231/922-4780
231/922-4797
231/922-4636

PRESS RELEASE

**GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY SENIOR CENTER DIRECTOR APPOINTED TO
STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING**

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For immediate Release

Media Contact: Nate Alger, County Administrator
nalger@grandtraverse.org

Traverse City - Lori Wells, Senior Center Network Manager, was recently appointed for a three-year term on the State Advisory Council on Aging. The council is a 40-member advisory body to the Michigan Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA). Appointed by the CSA, members of the advisory council study aging issues and recommend policy to the Commission.

"Michigan is aging faster than the rest of the United States. In 2025, those over the age of 65 will outnumber those under age 18 for the first time in many Michigan counties, just six years away," reported veteran Michigan demographer, Kurt Metzger. The working-age population decreases in Michigan combined with older adult population increases will lead to many regional challenges. In northwest Michigan, 40% of the population is currently over the age of 60. Within three years, estimates are that fully half of those populations will be over the age of 60. The State Advisory Council on Aging will work together to present research and suggested innovative solutions to these challenges. For 2019 the following areas are being researched, Transportation solutions; Direct care workforce shortage; Reduction in elder abuse and exploitation; and Access to in-home meals and in-home services.

Wells has led the senior center in Traverse City since 1992. Since that time, there has been much growth and demand for senior services. In 2016, the Traverse City Senior Center expanded into the Grand Traverse County Senior Center Network. A county-wide millage provides funding to support hundreds of programs throughout the county at the four satellite locations. In 2018, over 6,000 seniors were served.

Wells' previous work experience includes Community Center Director for the Grand Traverse Pavilions and Administrator for Bortz Health Care. She has served in a variety of capacities advocating for seniors with the Commission on Aging, Bay Area Senior Advocates, National Cherry Festival and the Michigan Association of Senior Centers, for which she has received the distinction of Senior Director Certified.

"This is something I have aspired to for years and am thrilled at the opportunity to be involved at the state level in furthering causes for senior citizens," said Wells.

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